

CLAIM AMENDMENTS (MARKED)

1 1. (Currently Amended) A composite, metal and plastic pipe assembly,
2 comprising: first and second metal ~~pipe sections~~ pipes having respective first and second
3 ends; a first plastic [spigot] cuff formed along the periphery of the first pipe end and
4 embedding the first pipe end therein; [and] a second plastic [bell] cuff formed along the
5 periphery of the second pipe end and embedding the second pipe end therein[,]; the first
6 cuff forming a spigot member extending around the circumference of the first pipe end and
7 the second cuff forming a bell member extending around the circumference of the second
8 pipe end; and the spigot member of the first cuff being inserted into the bell member of the
9 second cuff, thereby [the first and second cuffs] forming a mating bell and spigot [joint]
10 coupling around the circumference of the first and second pipe ends [with the first, spigot
11 cuff inserted into and joined to the second, bell cuff].

1 2. (Currently Amended) Components for a composite metal and plastic pipe
2 assembly, comprising: first and second [pipe sections] metal pipes having respective first
3 and second ends; a [first] plastic spigot cuff formed along the [periphery] circumference of
4 the first pipe end and embedding the first pipe end therein, and a [second] plastic bell cuff
5 formed along the [periphery] circumference of the second pipe end and embedding the
6 second pipe end therein, the sizes of the [first and second] bell and spigot cuffs being
7 adapted for inserting the spigot cuff into the bell cuff forming a [bell and spigot joint]
8 coupling between the spigot cuff and the bell cuff and between the first metal pipe and the
9 second metal pipe when the [first,] spigot cuff is inserted into the [second] bell cuff.

1 3. (New) The pipe assembly of claim 1, further comprising: a plastic coating
2 formed on the end of the first pipe; a plastic coating formed on the end of the second pipe;
3 a first plastic weld joining the first cuff and the end of the first pipe; and a second plastic
4 weld joining the second cuff and the end of the second pipe

1 4. (New). The pipe assembly of claim 1, the first plastic cuff having a metal core
2 embedded therein and the second plastic cuff having a metal core embedded therein.

1 5. (New) A method for adapting first and second pipes for coupling,
2 comprising: molding a first plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a first pipe,
3 with the end of the first pipe embedded in the first plastic cuff and the first plastic cuff
4 forming a spigot member extending along the circumference of the first pipe end; and
5 molding a second plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a second pipe, with
6 the end of the second pipe embedded in the second plastic cuff and the second plastic cuff
7 forming a bell member extending along the circumference of the second pipe end.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS (UNMARKED)

1 1. (Currently Amended) A composite, metal and plastic pipe assembly,
2 comprising: first and second metal pipes having respective first and second ends; a first
3 plastic cuff formed along the periphery of the first pipe end and embedding the first pipe
4 end therein; a second plastic cuff formed along the periphery of the second pipe end and
5 embedding the second pipe end therein; the first cuff forming a spigot member extending
6 around the circumference of the first pipe end and the second cuff forming a bell member
7 extending around the circumference of the second pipe end; and the spigot member of the
8 first cuff being inserted into the bell member of the second cuff, thereby forming a mating
9 bell and spigot coupling around the circumference of the first and second pipe ends.

1 2. (Currently Amended) Components for a composite metal and plastic pipe
2 assembly, comprising: first and second metal pipes having respective first and second ends;
3 a plastic spigot cuff formed along the circumference of the first pipe end and embedding
4 the first pipe end therein, and a plastic bell cuff formed along the circumference of the
5 second pipe end and embedding the second pipe end therein, the sizes of the bell and spigot
6 cuffs being adapted for inserting the spigot cuff into the bell cuff forming a coupling
7 between the spigot cuff and the bell cuff and between the first metal pipe and the second
8 metal pipe when the spigot cuff is inserted into the bell cuff.

1 3. (New) The pipe assembly of claim 1, further comprising: a plastic coating
2 formed on the end of the first pipe; a plastic coating formed on the end of the second pipe;
3 a first plastic weld joining the first cuff and the end of the first pipe; and a second plastic
4 weld joining the second cuff and the end of the second pipe

1 4. (New). The pipe assembly of claim 1, the first plastic cuff having a metal core
2 embedded therein and the second plastic cuff having a metal core embedded therein.

1 5. (New) A method for adapting first and second pipes for coupling,
2 comprising: molding a first plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a first pipe,
3 with the end of the first pipe embedded in the first plastic cuff and the first plastic cuff
4 forming a spigot member extending along the circumference of the first pipe end; and
5 molding a second plastic cuff around the circumference of an end of a second pipe, with
6 the end of the second pipe embedded in the second plastic cuff and the second plastic cuff
7 forming a bell member extending along the circumference of the second pipe end.